2 MONTHS LATER

NERVOUS

NERVOUS

YOU MUST BE EXCITED TO SEE THE TWIN HORNS TODAY. IT'S BEEN A WHILE, RIGHT?

I DON'T THINK I'M THE ONLY ONE EXCITED TO SEE THEM.

seraaa

LEAP
seraaa

GYOOH!

SYLVIE, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE SMALL ENOUGH TO KEEP RIDING ON MY SHOULDER...

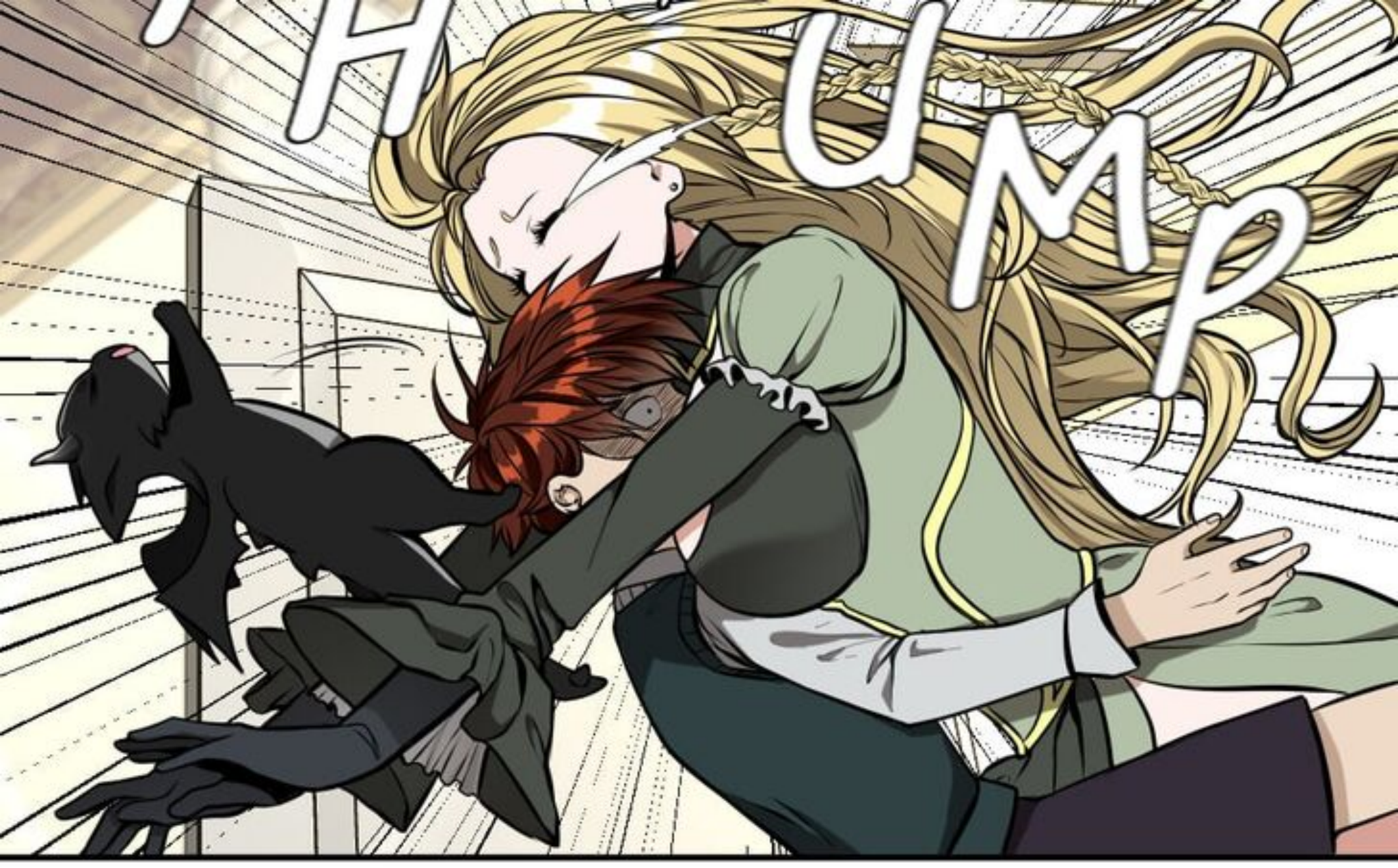
GYOWRRR

KNOCK!
KNOCK!

THEY'RE HERE!

HI EVERY--

OH! THANK GODS!


HUMP

YOU'VE
HAD IT SO HARD
FOR SUCH A
YOUNG BOY...

THANKS GOD YOU'RE OKAY
I MISS YOU

I MISS YOU

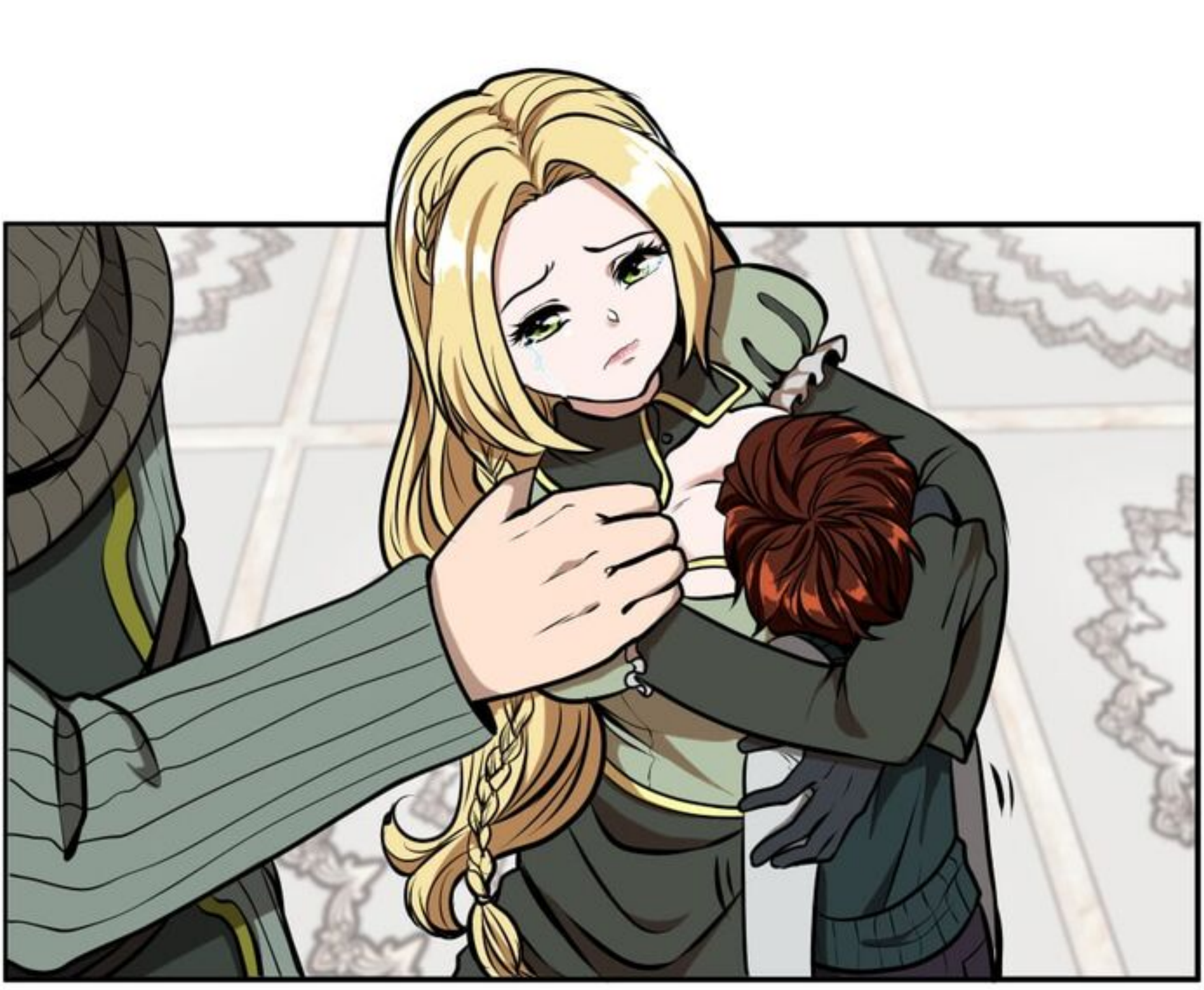
I MISS YOU

I MISS YOU

I MISS YOU

I MISS YOU

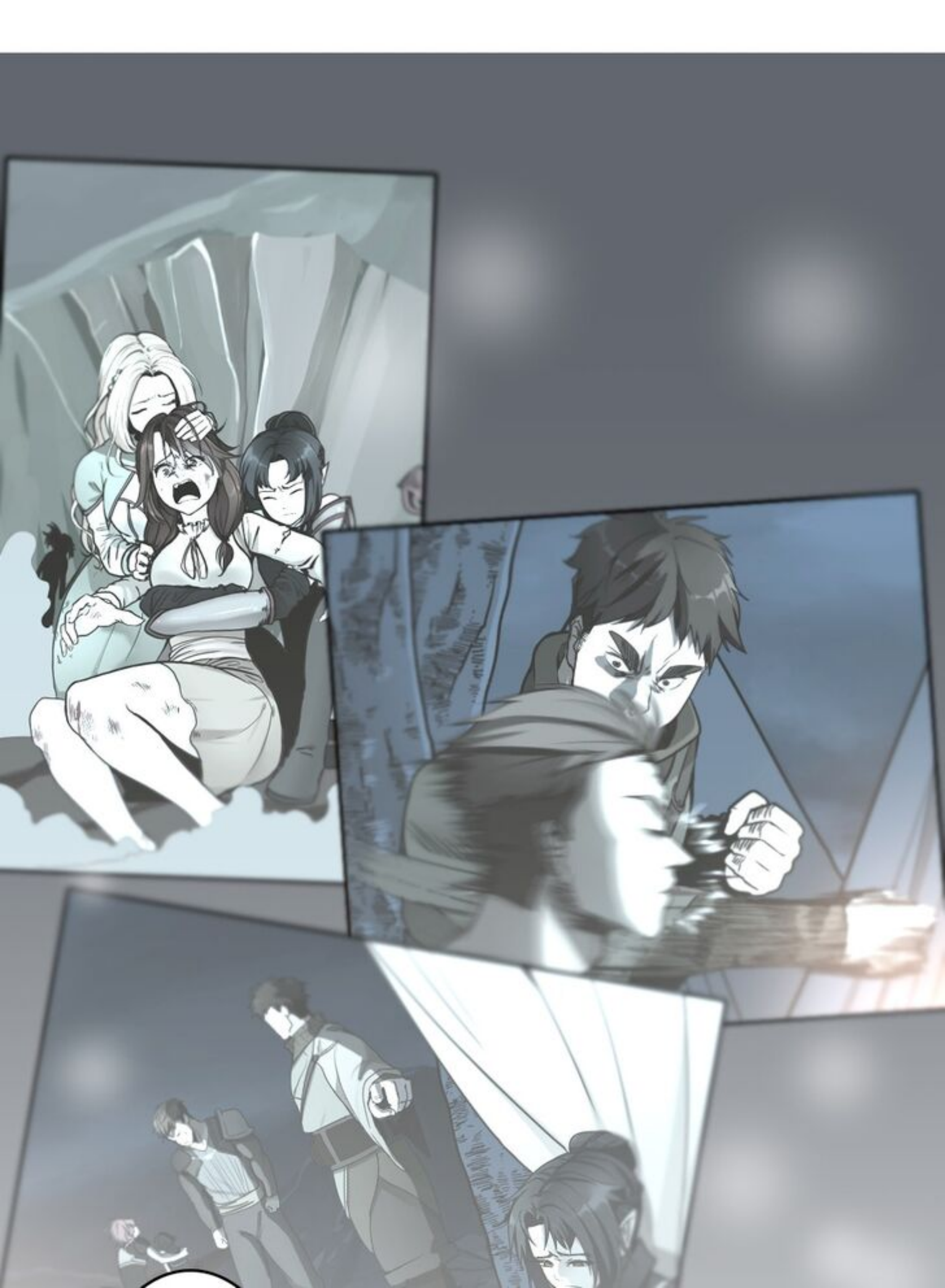
ANGELA?
I-I CAN'T
BREATHE...



OH MY,
WHERE ARE MY
MANNERS!

I GOT A LITTLE EMOTIONAL.

DURDEN.
YOU'VE GOTTEN EVEN BIGGER!



I CAN SAY THE SAME TO YOU.

I THOUGHT THE GAME PLAN WAS TO PUT ON A HAPPY FACE FOR THE KID.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE TEARS?

AND... IS NO ONE GOING TO COMMENT ON THAT BLACK MANA BEAST HANGING BEHIND--

SWOOOSH!

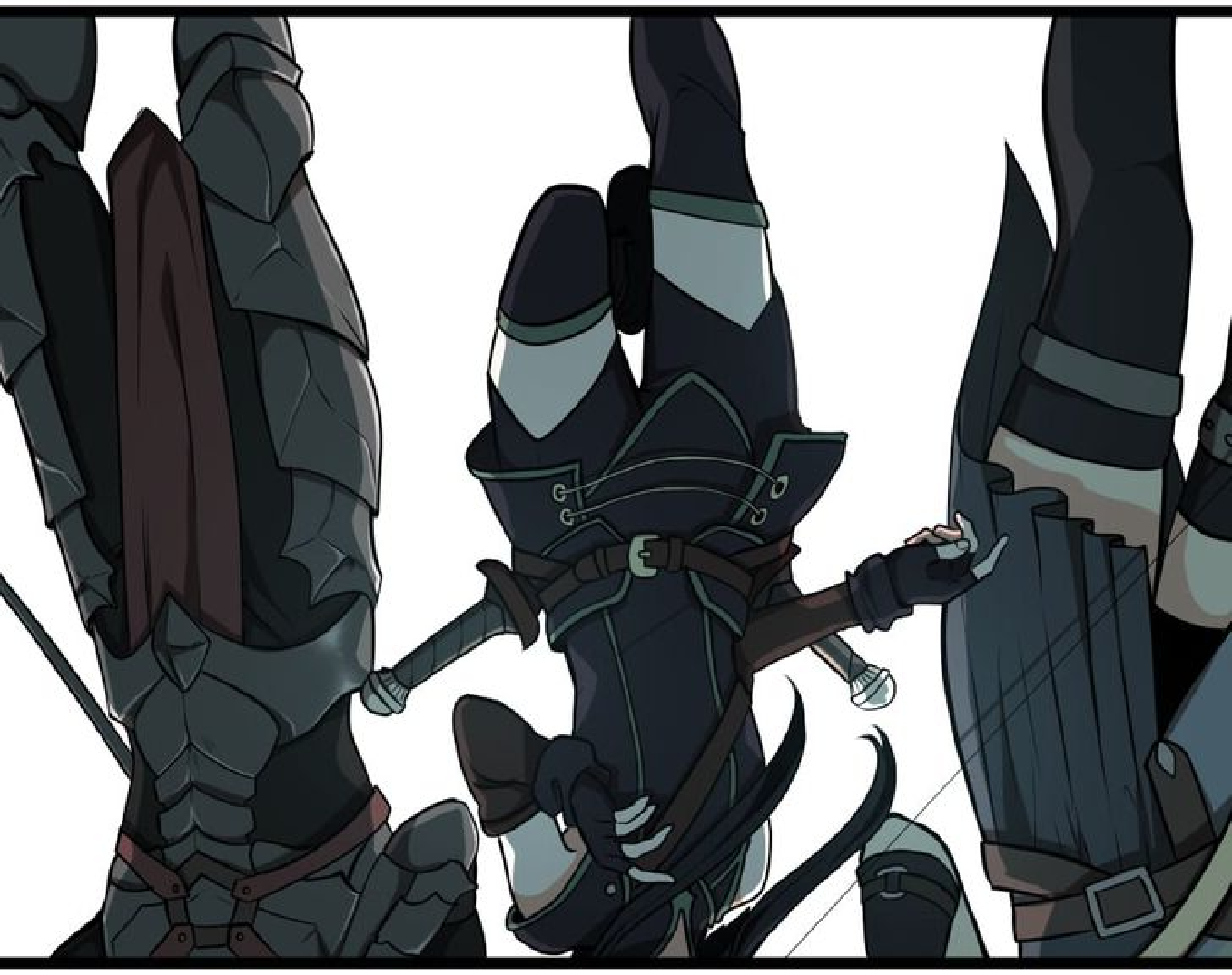
YOU CAN IGNORE THIS FOOL.

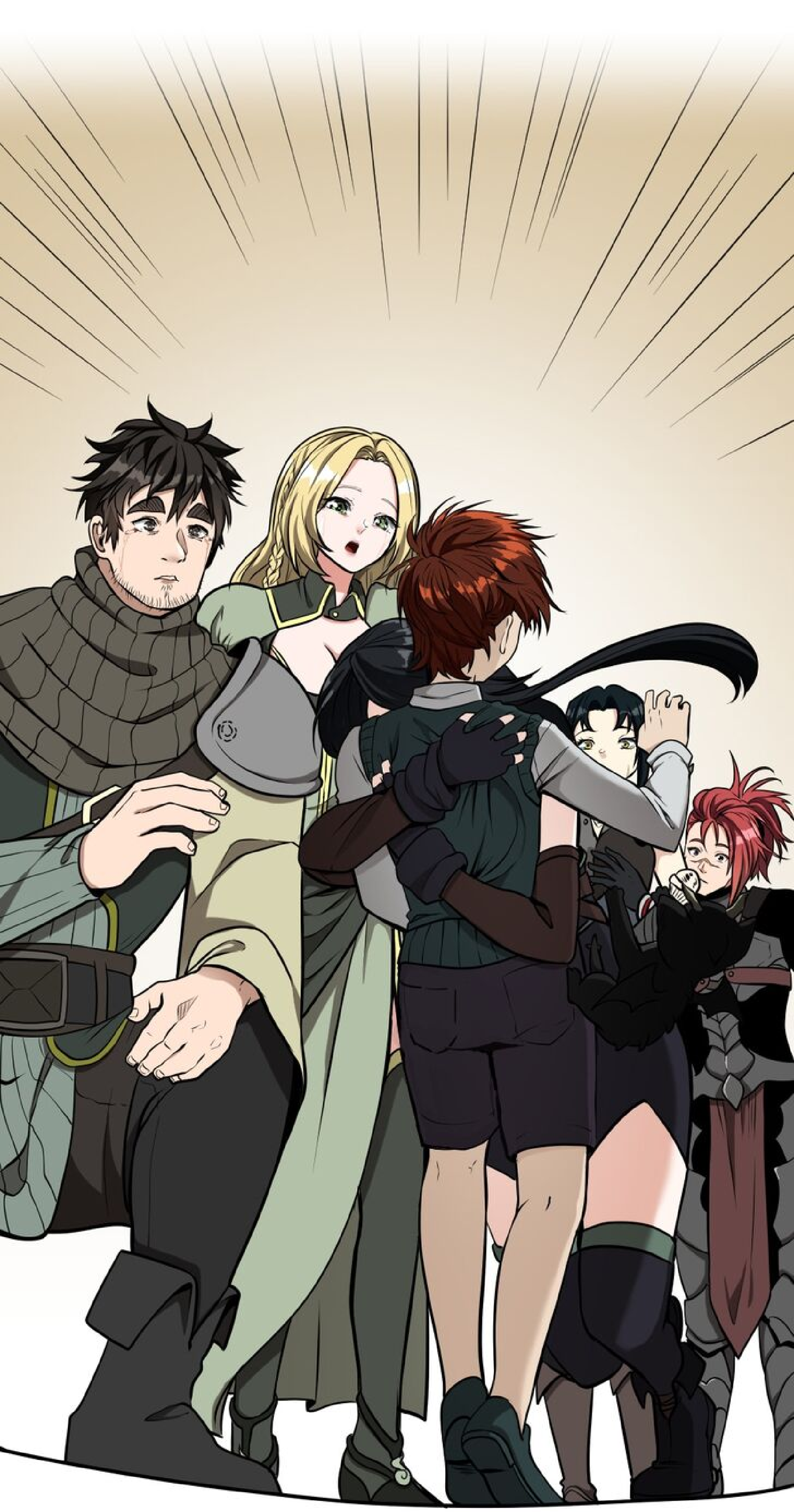
TUG

WE'RE SO GLAD TO SEE YOU, ALL GROWN UP AND EVEN MORE HANDSOME.

SO I'M THE BAD GUY FOR NOT CRYING?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT I'M MATURE ENOUGH TO KEEP IT TOGETHER.





J-JAS...MINE?

I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY,
ARTHUR.

LOOKS LIKE
WE MISSED OUR
TIMING.

M-MMHM!

THE BEGINNING AFTER THE END

STORY BY
TURTLEME

ART BY
FUYUKI23

PRESENTED BY
TAPAS MEDIA

QUALITY CONTROL BY
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

ASSISTANTS
STORYBOARD/MUNAZA
COLORING/DOJO & PLOWPLO
3D BACKGROUND/HAMUTAQ
LINING/SERA SWATI

EDITORS
GABRIELLE LUU & YOSI

WE HAVE ANGELA
AND ANOTHER WIND CONJURER
ALTERNATING DETECTION BARRIERS
AROUND THE AUCTION HOUSE AND DURDEN
MANNING THE MAIN ENTRANCES.

ANY MORE THAN
THAT, PEOPLE MIGHT
SUSPECT WE'RE PREPARING
FOR A WAR.

I REALLY AM GRATEFUL THAT YOUR OLD PARTY AGREED TO HELP OUT WITH SECURITY.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

WITH THEM HERE, I WAS ABLE TO POSITION SOME OF THE OTHER GUARDS OUTSIDE AROUND THE NEXT BLOCK.

WE'LL ENGAGE ANY THREAT OUTSIDE SO THE GUESTS WILL BE SAFE AND THE AUCTION HOUSE WON'T GET DESTROYED.

I KNOW YOU'RE JOKING BUT AFTER MY EXPERIENCES WITH MAGES RECENTLY, I'M GOING TO ACTUALLY HOLD YOU TO THAT PROMISE.

HOPEFULLY

IT DOESN'T COME TO THAT.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOUR SON ACTUALLY MENTIONED HE WANTED A SWORD BEFORE HE REGISTERS AS AN ADVENTURER.

OH?

YEAH!
CONSIDERING YOUR IN-FIGHTING STYLE WITH YOUR GAUNTLETS, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO TEACH HIM SWORD-FIGHTING.

WELL... THE ONLY THING I DID FOR HIM WAS GET HIM A WOODEN STARTER SWORD.

ASIDE FROM THAT, SINCE HE WAS FOUR, HE LEARNED ON HIS OWN.

F-FOUR YEARS--

WHY AM I EVEN SURPRISED.

HONESTLY, HE SAYS HE'S SELF-TAUGHT BUT THE FEW TIMES WE HAVE SPARRED, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HE EMITS THIS... PRESSURE.

seraaa

PRESSURE?

seraaa

LIKE THIS
SORT OF CALCULATED
CONFIDENCE THAT HE'S
FOUGHT BATTLES
FOR DECADES.

REY...
ARTHUR HASN'T EVEN LIVED FOR ONE DECADE

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE GIVING HIM A BIT TOO MUCH CREDIT?

...MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT, WHEN WE SPAR, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HE SUDDENLY TRIPS OR MESSES UP, LIKE HE'S NOT USED TO HIS OWN BODY.

I THINK
I KNOW WHY...

Y-YOU
DO?

EARLY PUBERTY.

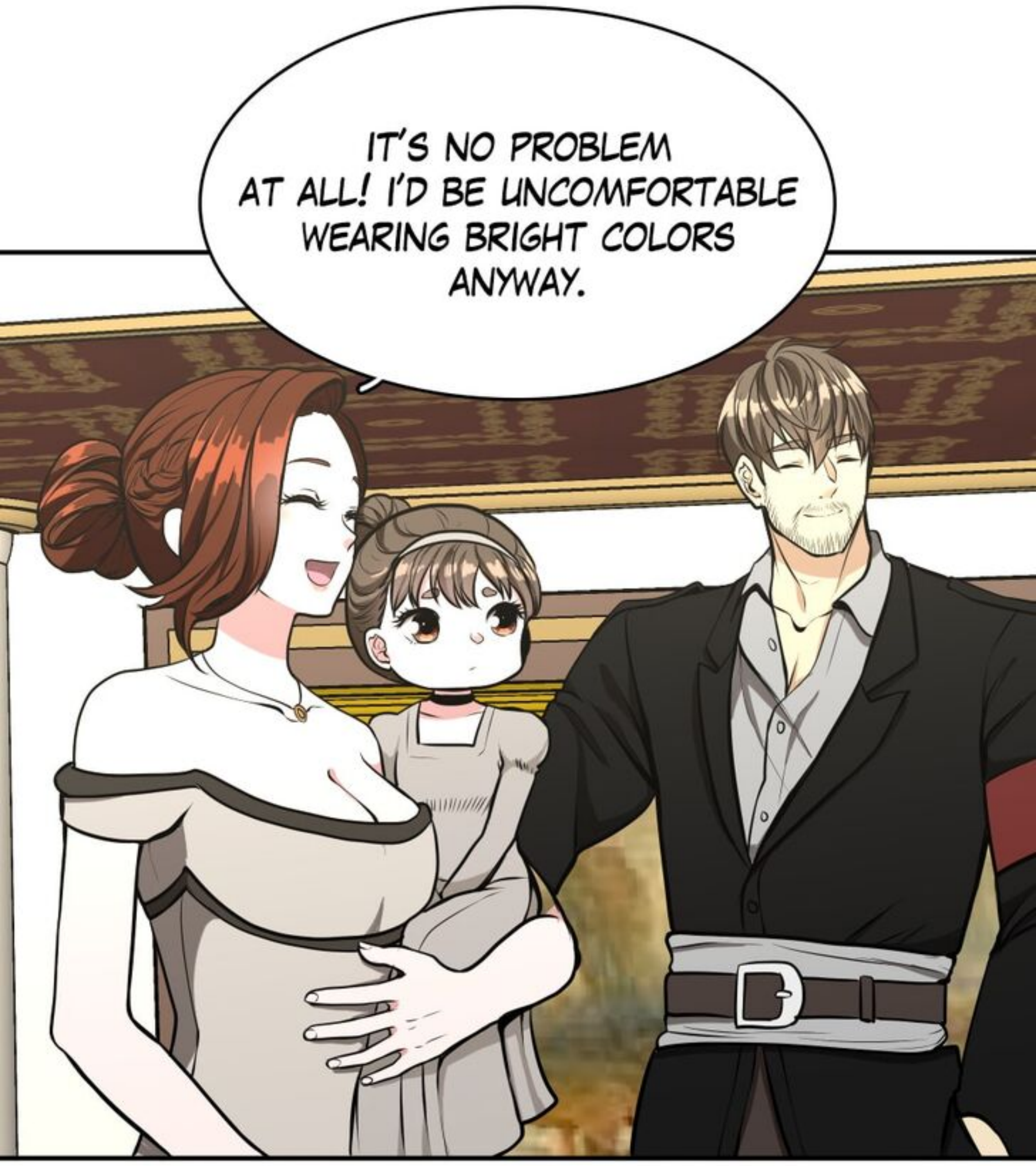
UH HUH... LET'S JUST GO DOWNSTAIRS. EVERYONE'S PROBABLY WAITING FOR US.

TOOK YOU
TWO LONG ENOUGH!
HOW ARE TWO GROWN MEN
THE LAST TO GET
READY?

WOAH!
YOU ALL LOOK
GREAT!

I JUST FEEL SORRY
THAT WE MADE EVERYONE WEAR
JUST BLACK AND WHITE.

WE ARE THE HOSTS
FOR THIS EVENT SO I DIDN'T
WANT TO STAND OUT OVER THE
GUESTS, BUT I GUESS WE DIDN'T
NEED TO MAKE REY'S FAMILY
MATCH THE DRESS CODE.


IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL! I'D BE UNCOMFORTABLE WEARING BRIGHT COLORS ANYWAY.

DRESSING UP LIKE THIS MAKES ME REALIZE THAT NO MATTER WHAT I WEAR RIGHT NOW

I'M JUST SOME
CUTE KID.

I JUST
HOPE MY GROWTH SPURT
COMES SOON...

'KAY
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!

CLAP

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN LET'S GET GOING! THE CARRIAGES ARE WAITING!

I HEARD THAT
MY DAUGHTER
IS PROGRESSING
WELL.

IF SHE CONTINUES LIKE THIS, SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AWAKEN IN TIME TO ATTEND XYRUS AT A NORMAL AGE.

THANK YOU AGAIN.

I'M JUST HOLDING MY END OF THE DEAL. I EXPECT TO SEE SOME GREAT STUFF AT YOUR AUCTION HOUSE.
OF COURSE!

LET'S GO!

KEEP UP WITH US CREATORS ON INSTAGRAM!

@turtleme93

@fuyuki23

~Extra~

Durden Walker

Weakness: low doorframes